

REMARKS

Status of the Application

Per the Final Office Action dated June 11, 2003, claims 1-4 and 6-11 are pending in the above-referenced patent application; claims 8-10 stand as previously withdrawn by the Examiner; claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7 and 11 stand as rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), and claim 3 stands as objected to by the Examiner.

Applicants have cancelled claims 1-4 and 6, 7, and 11; and newly added claims 12-22 are presented herein for further consideration by the Examiner. Support for newly added claims 12-17 is found in original claims 1-7. No new matter has been added.

Applicants have respectfully submitted an appropriate and timely Request for Continued Examination under 37 CFR §1.114 for consideration by the Examiner.

Applicants have added new process claims 18-22. Support for such claims is found in originally filed claims 8-10 as well as page 7, lines 17-28 of the present specification. Applicants submit that Miyabayashi et al. (U.S. Patent 4,880,891) does not teach or suggest the present invention since the coating compositions described in '891 are intended for precoating metal to be shaped subsequent to being coated (see column 1, lines 11-24; column 1, line 63 through column 2, line 12; and column 6, lines 55-57).

Objections To The Claims

Claim 3 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but the Examiner has also indicated, as shown below, that this claim would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants have combined claims 1 and 3 and rewritten them as claim 12, as per the recommendation of the Examiner and claim 3 has been cancelled. Furthermore, Applicants have also added new claims 13-17 depending from claim 12.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102/103

Claims 1-4, 6 and 7 stand as rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over WO '131. The Examiner asserts that the reference teaches coating compositions comprising a low molecular weight non-aromatic polyester polyol having up to ten hydroxyl groups and a crosslinking agent. The Examiner further asserts that the polyester polyols are prepared from aliphatic polyol, dicarboxylic acid and epoxy compound (page 3, line 37 through page 5, line 29) and that the non-aromatic low molecular weight polyester polyols having hydroxyl functionality inherently have high hydroxyl values or it would have been obvious to prepare non-aromatic low molecular weight polyester polyols having high hydroxyl functionality that would be expected to have high hydroxyl values.

Applicants respectfully respond, that claims 1-11 have been cancelled. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection has been rendered moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated claim 3 would be allowable if these claims were rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants respond that the subject matter of claims 1 and 3 have been combined and rewritten as newly added claim 12, as suggested by the Examiner. Additionally, dependent claims 13-17 have been added, all depending from allowable claim 12.

Summary

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants submit that the Examiner's rejections have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot, and a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action dated June 11, 2003. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

There should be no fee due in connection with the filing of this Response.
However, should a fee be due which is not accounted for, please charge such fee to
Deposit Account No. 04-1928 (E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Company).

Respectfully submitted,



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